

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of scanning an object comprising the steps of:

providing a scanning device having a probe and a sample holder whereby the sample holder is rotatable relative to the probe;

providing a first feature for indicating the start and/or end of a scan; and

recognising the first feature whereby when the first feature is recognised the scanning device is ready to start or end the scan.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein, the scanning device has a fixed stop which defines a known relationship between the probe and the sample holder .

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein, the fixed stop comprises the first feature.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein, the fixed stop indicates the start of a scan.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein, the first feature is provided on the scanning device.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20 wherein, the scanning device further comprises a fixture for at least partially housing an object.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein, the first feature is provided on the object.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 wherein, the first feature indicates the start of a scan and on recognition of the first feature the scanning device is ready to start a scan and the method further comprises the steps of:

providing a second feature for indicating the end of the scan; and

recognising the second feature whereby when the second feature is recognised the scanning device ~~(21)~~ is ready to end the scan.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein, the second feature is provided on the scanning device.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein, the scanning device further comprises a fixture for at least partially housing an object.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein, the second feature is provided on the object.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein, the second feature comprises a datum stop.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein, a scan automatically starts or ends when the scanning device recognises the first feature.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein, a scan automatically ends when the scanning device recognises the second feature.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for scanning an object comprising:
a scanning device having a probe and a sample holder whereby the sample holder is rotatable relative to the probe; and
a control device for controlling relative motion between the probe and sample holder and for recognising a first feature whereby the control device starts and/or ends a scan on the basis of recognising the first feature.